are as under:-

| Year | No. of haj pilgrims | Fare paid by each pilgrim | Subsidy per pilgrim (with reference to charter flight rates) | total Subsidy paid/payable |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1996 | 50347 | Rs. 12000 | Rs. 7640 | Rs. 35.59 crores |
| 1997 | 53766 | Rs. 12000 | Rs. 16924 | Rs. 91.00 crores of which Rs. 34.38 crores have been paid till date as on account payment. |

(c) The details are as under:-

| | Haj I99f | | Haj 1997 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Haj | Umra | Haj | Umra |
| Normal/prescribed fare | 25875 | 20705 | 28530 | 22835 |
| Additional incentive for groups and individuals | 10% | 2 .72% | 6% | 10% |
| Fare charged | 23290 | 16000 | 26820 | 20555 |

(d) The commission paid to an IATA agent during Haj and Umra is *9%.* Productivity linked bonus ranging from *2%* to *7%* based on minimum productivity of Rs. 100 lakhs was given in the year 1996 and 1997 as incentive to the IATA agents(s)—

**Poor quality of food served in Indian Airlines flights**

648. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) in the passenger ticket of lndian Airlines what amount is included for the food being served on board;

(b) if so, what is the quality and type of food being served that commensurate with the amount charged from the passenger for food;

!c) what is the reasons for poor quality of food; and

(d) whether the quality of food will be improved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) The average cost of the meal uplifted by Indian Airlines is Rs. 83/- approximately.

(b) to (d) Indian Airlines serves sumptuous meals to its passengers which are uplifted from reputed caterers. The quality and quantity of food uplifited from various caterers is ensured through regular monitoring by Indian Airlines officials. Efforts are made to improve the quality as per feedback received from commuters.

**Monsoon Magic and similar offers of Air India**

649. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister OF CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) how many passengers have availed of the Monsoon Magic and similar offers of Air India since its launching last year;

(b) whether this scheme has been successful:

(c) if so. what is the amount of extra revenue earned by Air India due to this Scheme:

(d) whether Air India will continue to offer such innovative schemes in future; and

(e) what steps are being taken to make travel by Air India more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) A total number of 3720 passengers availed themselves of the benefit of the scheme which was offered to First and Executive Class passengers only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Air India has earned additional revenue of Rs. 407.77 lakhs due to this scheme.

(d) and (e) Air India launches various attractive marketing initiatives/schemes at regular intervals.

**High priority programme for air traffic managements at major airports**

650.SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL: Will'the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has prepared any plan on high priority basis for air traffic management at major airports of the country;

(b) if so. the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ahmedabad International Airport which is lacking the International Standard is also included in this high priority programme of air traffic management:

(d) if so. the details of programme: and

(e) if not. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) In addition to modernisation of air traffic system at Delhi and Mumbai, navigation and surveillance systems arc being upgraded by installation of Secondary Surveillance Radars at Chennai. Calcutta, Trivandrum, Hyderabad. Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Nagpur. Varanasi and Bhubancshwar. Installation work is in progress at Chennai and Calcutta and the system has been installed at Hyderabad. Guwahati and Trivandrum.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At Ahmedabad airport. Airport Surveillance Radar, Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar, and extended range ground to air VHF communication equipment will be installed.

(e) Does not arise.

**Communication from the Federation of Indian Exporters for Readjustment of Rupee**

651.SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE to pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports have come down by 10.8% in April which is historic decline and. if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have received any communication from the Federation of Indian Exporters for readjustment of the rupee in the wake of continual flow of dollars through portfolio investments, and if so. the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) As per the latest information from DGCI&S exports during April, 1997 showed a decline of 9.9% over April, 1996. While slow down in the growth rate of world trade and sector specific problems are the major reasons, the transporters strike which lasted more than a week is believed to have affected movement of export goods and hence export performance.

thj The Federation of Indian Export Organisation has called for readjustment of the value til the rupee in the wake of the continuous How of dollars through portfolio investments and also in the light of the devaluation effected in the prominenet Asian countries like Indonesia. Japan. Thailand. Malaysia and China as also the indirect devaluation of some of the European currencies against US dollar.

(c) The implications of the hardening of the rupee, are many and have to be viewed in the context of the high import intensity *of* India's exports, possible competitive devaluation by